

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 MANILA 20105 220927Z

ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 HA-05 /064 W

-----123638 221028Z /14

R 220838Z DEC 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9538

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MANILA 20105

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT, RP

SUBJECT: DECEMBER 17 REFERENDUM: COUNTING THE VOTES

REF: A) MANILA 19896; B) MANILA 20042

1. COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS (COMELEC) STILL TABULATING RETURNS OF DECEMBER 17 REFERENDUM. WITH RESULTS FROM 72 PERCENT OF VOTING CENTERS NOW IN, COUNT HOLDING AT 9 TO 1 IN FAVOR OF PRESIDENT MARCOS CONTINUING IN OFFICE. COMELEC HAS ANNOUNCED IT WILL COMPLETE VOTE COUNT BY DECEMBER 23. PRELIMINARY RETURNS INDICATE HIGHEST LEVEL OF SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT MARCOS FROM CENTRAL MINDANAO (97 PERCENT) AND NORTHERN LUZON (95 PERCENT). LOWEST PERCENT OF "YES" VOTES HAS COME FROM CENTRAL VISAYAS (86 PERCENT) AND SOUTHERN MINDANAO (85 PERCENT).

2. METRO MANILA'S 90 PERCENT "YES" VOTE MIGHT BE CONSIDERED MILD SURPRISE WERE IT NOT FOR ARDENT PUSH BY CITY OFFICIALS LED MY MRS. MARCOS TO ENSURE OVERWHELMING SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT MARCOS. RUMORS ARE CIRCULATING IN THE CAPITAL THAT METRO MANILA COMMISSION PROMISED LARGE FUND ALLOCATION TO THE MUNICIPALITY WHICH PRODUCED HIGHEST PROPORTION OF "YES" VOTE. ONE CASE OF CLUMSY OVERZEALOUSNESS HAS ALREADY SURFACED IN THE PRESS. A VOTER COMPLAINED THAT IN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 MANILA 20105 220927Z

SAN ANTONIO PRECINCT, PASIG MUNICIPALITY, THE FINAL VOTE COUNT --3,373 "YES" - 0 "NO" -- WAS UNEBLIEVEABLE, SINCE THE PRECINCT POLLING PLACE COULD NOT POSSIBLY ACCOMMODATE SO MANY VOTERS DURING A SINGLE DAY. PRESS REPORTED ON FRONT PAGES DECEMBER 22 THAT COMELEC CHAIRMAN PEREZ HAD ORDERED QUESTIONABLE VOTES FROM PASIG NULLIFIED. PEREZ SAID COMELEC WILL CONDUCT THOROUGH INVESTIGATION OF THIS

AND OTHER REPORTED BALLOTING IRREGULARITIES.

3. PRESIDENT MARCOS REITERATED DURING DECEMBER 21 ARMED FORCES DAY SPEECH (REF B) THAT THE WAY NOW CLEARED FOR LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS. HE SAID, "THE VERDICT OF THE NATIONAL ELECTORATE IS OVERWHELMINGLY CLEAR THAT OUR PEOPLE HAVE GIVEN THE CRISIS GOVERNMENT A NEW MANDATE TO LEAD AND GOVERN...THERE SHOULD BE NO QUESTION NOW THAT WE SHALL HOLD NATIONAL ELECTIONS IN 1978." THE PRESS HAS EXHOD THIS VIEW. BULLETIN TODAY'S BIGORNIA, FOR EXAMPLE, WROTE, "THE ROAD LEADS UNAVOIDABLY TO NEXT YEARS POLLS...IN MAY TO ELECT THE PEOPLE'S REPRESENTATIVES TO THE INTERIM NATIONAL ASSEMBLY....AND IN NOVEMBER TO ELECT THEIR OWN LOCAL OFFICIALS."

4. COMMENT: SPEED WITH WHICH COMELEC IS NOW ABLE TO TABULATE VOTES IS FREQUENTLY CITED BY THE OPPOSITION AS EVIDENCE THAT REFERENDA RESULTS ARE UNRELIABLE. BEFORE MARTIAL LAW, IT TOOK SEVERAL WEEKS TO COUNT VOTES IN NATIONAL ELECTIONS. OPPOSITIONISTS CONTEND THAT COMMUNICATIONS/TRANSPORTATION PROBLEMS IN RURAL PHILIPPINES MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE TO SPEED UP PROCESS. COMELEC OFFICIALS REPLY THAT POST-MARTIAL LAW EFFICIENCY HAS MADE QUICK BUT RELIABLE COUNT POSSIBLE. IN LAST REFERENDUM (OCTOBER 16, 1976), COMELEC ANNOUNCED FINAL RESULTS ONLY ELEVEN DAYS AFTER POLLING.
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 MANILA 20105 220927Z

NEWSOM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFERENDUMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 22-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MANILA20105
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770477-0708
Format: TEL
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771227/aaaaawce.tel
Line Count: 95
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 6d1549fe-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 MANILA 19896, 77 MANILA 20042
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 147390
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DECEMBER 17 REFERENDUM: COUNTING THE VOTES
TAGS: PINT, RP
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6d1549fe-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009